SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, July 17, 2019
Time: 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Meeting Location:
Loyola Marymount University, Life Science Building, Room 331
1 LMU Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90045

Attendance:

Members:
Steve Bay (Chair)	Present
Mas Dojiri (Vice Chair)	Absent
Rich Ambrose	Present
John Dorsey	Present
Phyllis Grifman	Absent
Karen Martin	Present
Dan Pondella	Present
Eric Stein	Absent

Commission Staff:
Guangyu Wang

The Bay Foundtation Staff:
Tom Ford
Karina Johnston
Melodie Grub

Guest:
Walter Lamb (Ballona Wetlands Land Trust)
Phil Markle (Los Angeles County Sanitation District)
Erica Yelensky (USEPA), via teleconference

1. Welcome and Introductions

   Chair Steve Bay called the meeting to order at 9:35 am. Roundtable introductions
   followed.

2. Public Comment

   Walter Lamb commented on the need to answering scientific questions related to
   Ballona Wetlands restoration and asked TAC to take positions.

3. General Business

    a. Order of Agenda

        Guangyu Wang recommended, and members accepted to move agenda item
        #5 before #4.

    b. Approval of Meeting Minutes

        The minutes were approved with addition of Chris Enyart's last name and
        acknowledgement of Rainer's retirement. Moved by: Rich Ambrose,
        Seconded by: Karen Martin.

    c. Reports from the Chair, Subcommittees, and Staff

        Steve Bay reported the last Governing Board meeting he attended and
        announced his retirement at the end of the year. He suggested that the next
        TAC meeting have an agenda item to discuss membership and election of
        new chair. Guangyu Wang mentioned the adoption of the CCMP Action Plan
        by Governing Board last December and the EPA program evaluation with
        presentation and site visit last month.

        Guangyu Wang invited Tom Ford to give an update on activities carried out
        by the Bay Foundation in accordance to the SMBNEP annual work plan. Tom
        mentioned his trip to Congress to testify on behalf of the NEP and potential
        increase in federal NEP funding, the 3rd UCLA senior practicum on study of
        kelp's effects on climate change, close out of Malibu post-restoration
        monitoring, CRI's summer internship program, beach restoration projects, and
        technical support for sea urchin problem management in Farallon Islands and
        Canada.

        Members commented and gave suggestions on CRI program development,
        potential new activities, and assistance by the TAC. Steve Bay asked and
        suggested circulation to TAC members report on CRI activities.

        Rich suggested to schedule discussion on the structure and framework for
        State of the Bay Report 2020 at the next meeting.

    d. Member Comment

        Steve Bay, Rich Ambrose, and John Dorsey mentioned their workplace
        retirement plans and pointed out the need to find out how the retirement will
        affect their affiliation with the TAC.

        Karen Martin mentioned new legislation on grunion fishing restrictions and her
        sabbatical leave next year.

Rich Ambrose mentioned the funding award for rockweed restoration project.

Dan Pondella mentioned completion of the permitting process for the PV rocky reef restoration project.

Steve Bay mentioned the new toxicology lab established at SCCWRP.

4. <u>Workgroup Report Back, Review, and Consideration of Adoption of Proposition 50 Grant Funding priorities</u>

Steve Bay and Guangyu Wang provided a summary of the workgroup meeting and the draft priority recommendations developed by the workgroup.

Member discussion followed. Recommended revisions to the draft TAC Priority Recommendation Memo include:

- Reorganization of funding topic areas to single out assessment tools

- Make sure it's inclusive of indicators which are not part of indices.

- Emphasize the need for indicators tofill data gaps.

- Add a bullet for filling gaps identified as part of climate change vulnerability assessment – especially the vulnerability indicators within the habitat matrices.

- Prioritize projects that maps the extent of nearshore rocky reefs and soft bottom or seagrasses vegetation.

- Make indices for sandy shores and rocky intertidal a priority.

Members also recommended that additional priority areas should be identified in the monitoring indicator matrix, including two types of matrices, one for assessment tool development and one for data gaps, with narrative summary of data gaps by habitat type.

Members and staff were assigned to help define major gaps (in approximately one paragraph) for each habitat type:

• Sandy beach and wetlands - Karina Johnston, John Dorsey, Karen Martin

• Rocky subtidal -Tom Ford, Dan Pondella

• Rocky intertidal – Rich Ambrose

• Soft bottom – Steve Bay

• Pelagic – Phil Markle

• Freshwater – Eric Stein

Steve Bay will incorporate additional information from members and finalize the memo from the TAC to the GB.

5. <u>Habitat Subgroups Updates and Discussion: Bay Comprehensive Monitoring Program (CMP) habitat-specific indicator/index development</u>

Karina Johnston lead the update and discussion. Members provided next steps recommendations for each habitat subgroup on addition of members and identification of data gaps including:

- Beaches and dunes – Data gap in area extent.

- Sandy Shores – Needs and high priority for index development

- Wetlands – Data gaps from small systems up in north Bay

- Rocky Intertidal - Index development as a high priority; no data for some indicators (e.g. shorebirds, fish, bacteria); some indicators have not good geographic coverage; Possible addition of Steve Whittaker from NPS in Bren school at UCSB to the group.

- Rocky Reef – Fish guild has no data from northern portion of the Bay; index developed but not applied everywhere.

- Pelagic – Bay-wide data don't exist, need index development, and work needs to consolidate the data.

- Freshwater / Riparian – Still some missing data despite three well developed indices.

- Soft Bottom Benthos – Extent of SAV in nearshore regions is a major data gap. Replace Steve with David Gillett for the group.

- Separate discussion of climate change vulnerability indicator category – might be a higher priority across the board and try to fill both indices and data gaps for this one. Mel – could include models

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.